



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**N.C. GOVERNOR MIKE EASLEY HOSTS MULTI-STATE TEXTILE SUMMIT**

**RALEIGH, N.C.**—Gov. Mike Easley will hold a regional textile summit – including Gov. Roy Barnes (GA), Gov. Jim Hodges (SC) and Gov. Mark Warner (VA) – to discuss ways to bolster the ailing industry on **Friday (March 22) from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at Gaston College's Myers Center in Dallas, North Carolina.**

The goal of the summit is to hear specific concerns from representatives of the textile industry, employees, economists and local economic development officials, and to discuss possible solutions to assist the industry in the Southeast. Representatives from all four states will participate in the summit. Local, state and federal officials have also been invited to the meeting.

Over the past four years, North Carolina has lost almost 70,000 textile and apparel jobs. Just since January 2001, more than 100 plants have closed and more than 13,300 workers have been laid off.

“As governors of the four textile manufacturing states, it is critical that we work together on this important issue,” said Easley. “But we cannot do it alone. We need immediate assistance from Washington. Many of these textile jobs are churning, but unless we get full enforcement of NAFTA, we will lose jobs at a faster pace than we can replace them. Textile companies invested heavily under the protection of these rules and now the rules have changed. The industry has been placed at an unfair disadvantage.”

Following the summit, the Governors will participate in a brief media availability at the College.

The summit will be broadcast live over the Internet using streaming video at <http://ndcmitsra.sips.state.nc.us:8080/ramgen/encoder/live>. The stream is being broadcast using RealPlayer. To obtain a free version of RealPlayer, visit [www.realplayer.com](http://www.realplayer.com).

PLEASE NOTE: The summit will be re-broadcast in its entirety at 1:00 p.m.

**Directions to Gaston College (201 Highway 321 South; Dallas, NC 28034-1499):**

*Traveling on I-85, take exit 17 (HWY 321). As you exit the ramp, take a left at the red light and travel north on Highway 321. You will pass three traffic lights and pass over a bridge. About 1/4 mile past the bridge, you will take the Gaston College exit ramp. At the top of the ramp, turn left and follow the road to the traffic circle. Take the first exit right off the circle to go to the main part of campus. Gaston College [www.gaston.cc.nc.us](http://www.gaston.cc.nc.us) (704) 922-6200.*